

Clark, a senior official of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Other departments are, of course, directly represented on the delegation. The resources of the delegation are supplemented as required by senior personnel and experts on particular subjects from Ottawa.

I might add that both the head and assistant head of the delegation have been brought back to Canada on a number of occasions to provide direct briefing on the progress of the negotiations. They have made it a practice on those occasions to speak to a number of groups here, in Ottawa, as well as to visit the different provincial capitals and hold discussions with both provincial government officials and local business interests. Their advice has been made available to the sectors most vitally concerned about the tariff negotiations. This is a two-way street, Mr. Speaker. Many businessmen, and indeed some members of the House have had occasion to visit Geneva and receive more detailed briefing directly from the delegation.

Hon. members should know that the government has made special efforts to keep the provinces informed, and indeed to seek their detailed views on the matters under negotiation. It is perhaps significant that while in the Kennedy Round the then minister of finance only received formal briefs from three provinces, in this round of discussions eight provinces so far have submitted detailed views to the government. Arrangements have also been made for formal and informal contacts between federal and provincial officials at all levels. In addition, there have of course been contacts at the ministerial level. I think therefore I can assure the House that every effort is being made to make certain that we fully understand the concerns and aspirations of the provinces and that they too are kept fully informed about the progress of the negotiations.

I should point out that since the negotiations began there have been a number of speeches made by ministers and by officials which dealt with the questions at issue in these negotiations and their implications for Canada. As hon. members are aware, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce recently spoke on these matters to the annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers Association in Ottawa last month. I might also mention that Ambassador Grey himself gave a very detailed and public assessment of where we now stand in these negotiations when speaking to the Apparel Manufacturers Institute of Quebec in September. The speech was widely reported.

Hon. members opposite referred to the advisory committee set up in the United States under its legislative jurisdiction with respect to consultation. They referred as well to legislation which limits the authority of the President of the United States to negotiate on behalf of the United States. Having illustrated the procedures which apply in Canada, I think I have shown hon. members that at least as much access is available in Canada as in the United States.

The opposition's real grievances are that they have provided no input into the GATT negotiations, that they have not had any voice in determining what the policies of the Canadian government ought to be as put forward in the negotiations at

Canadian Trade Policy

Geneva. Mr. Speaker, the reason for this failure is clear. They have nothing to say on the subject.

An hon. Member: Then why do you keep asking for our views?

Mr. Kaplan: All day not one tariff proposal came forward from hon. members opposite to match the government's five goals. We have heard nothing on international trade, except current statistics. Hon. members opposite proposed nothing on which we could agree. Of course hon. members are entitled to have their say. They are entitled to discuss the tremendously important negotiations presently under way involving a tremendously important proposed international agreement. But they must give the House and country some idea of where they stand. If they do, their ideas will get the attention they deserve.

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to participate this evening in this debate dealing with Canada's foreign trade. When I first entered the Chamber this evening the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Sharp), the former government House leader and president of the privy council, was speaking. Since the question at issue involves secrecy and foreign trade I wondered why he was speaking, until I remembered that at one point this afternoon not one cabinet minister was present in the House. The only minister who saw fit to defend the government's record with respect to foreign trade and secrecy was the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Chrétien).

Mr. Goodale: Where are the members of your front bench?

● (2100)

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, I think I heard some noise from the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Goodale). After his record of a couple of weeks ago when he failed to say "no", which is his sole responsibility, one would think he would hesitate to be noisy tonight.

I was interested to note that no minister except the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce could be enticed to defend the government's policies, so the government was forced to disinter the former president of the privy council to defend them. I think it is appropriate that the former government House leader should take part in the debate because it centres on the question of secrecy. No one has had such an extraordinary record in this House as has this former minister who is known for dragging his feet on the question of freedom of information during his tenure as government House leader. That would not bother him, I know. Now they put him into the breach to give a stirring defence of government policy on secrecy. The former government House leader, the hon. member for Eglinton, is the sort of person who would chop down a giant redwood tree and then mount the stump to give a speech on conservation. It is appropriate that he should be the one to give a speech tonight on secrecy.

I think it is appropriate that we debate the question of foreign trade today when Statistics Canada released the fig-